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**U.S. JURY CONVICTS TWO MEN OF STEALING ALMOST
\$350,000 IN WORLD TRADE CENTER DISASTER BENEFITS**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ALEXANDER D. KOLTOVSKOY, a/k/a "Alexander Kolt," and VINCENT M. PIZZI, III, were convicted late Friday in Manhattan federal court on charges of defrauding various agencies of World Trade Center-related disaster benefits totaling almost \$350,000.

The conviction followed a two-week jury trial before United States District Judge LORETTA A. PRESKA.

According the Indictment and the evidence presented at trial, KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI joined in a scheme to apply for financial assistance from several federal, state, local and private relief agencies, and also did so individually, by falsely claiming that their business, Alexander Edwards Global Search, Inc., doing business as Alexander Edwards International, Inc. ("AEI"), an executive search firm, had leased property and had equipment at 2 World Trade Center ("2 WTC"), in Manhattan, and

had sustained damage in the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001.

According the Indictment and the evidence at trial, however, KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI both knew that neither they nor AEI had any such property, lease, or equipment at 2 WTC as of September 11, 2001. In fact, as shown by the evidence at trial, although the defendants and AEI were at one time based in 2 WTC, they had left that location by December, 1999.

According to the Indictment and the evidence at trial, based upon their fraudulent misrepresentations and false statements, KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI received financial assistance from the following relief agencies in the following amounts, all totaling \$349,722.76:

DEFENDANT	RELIEF AGENCY	AMOUNT RECEIVED
KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI	Small Business Administration	\$228,200.00
KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI	Civic Capital Corporation	No funds disbursed
KOLTOVSKOY and PIZZI	Safe Horizon, Inc.	\$5,000.00
KOLTOVSKOY	Federal Emergency Management Agency	\$13,410.24
KOLTOVSKOY	Empire State Economic Development Corp., funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$64,390.00
KOLTOVSKOY	New York City Economic Development Corp.	\$10,000.00
KOLTOVSKOY	American Red Cross	\$28,722.52

		\$349,722.76 Total
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Judge PRESKA set January 14, 2004, for the sentencing of both defendants.

KOLTOVSKOY, 36, of Manhattan, faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison for each of the 18 counts of which he was convicted, and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime.

PIZZI, 48, of Mamaroneck, New York, faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison for each of the 5 counts of which he was convicted, and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Small Business Administration, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Inspector General.

Assistant United States Attorneys JEFFREY A. UDELL and LAWRENCE GERSCHWER are in charge of the prosecution.

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